(i) Inspection of depots by senior officers of Headquarters, Zonal Managers/Senior Regional Managers/District Managers.

(j) Inspection of weighbridges.

(k) Improvement in size and quality of gunnies.

(l) Three-tier system of audit *i.e.* internal/statutory and CAG.

(m) Maintaining priority list for issue of stocks observing the FIFO principle.

(n) Proper weighment and accounting at the time of receipt and issue.

(o) Undertaking pre-monsoon fumigation.

(p) Improvement in dunnage material.

The Department of Food & Public Distribution of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution is considering appointment of RITES as consultant to do a norms study on "Rail Transit Losses". In the terms of references by RITES, it has also been proposed to include a study on the possibility of "in-motion Wagon-Weighbridges" by the Railways at important sidings/goodsheds to assess the weight of foodgrains loaded and to give a Railway Receipt accordingly.

Supervision of PDS in Orissa

446. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central Team has visited various parts of Orissa to supervise proper functioning of the Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the areas visited by the Team, shortcoming detected and the action taken to help the State to streamline the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Team which visited Sonepur, Bolangir and Kalahandi districts of Orissa to review the functioning of

the Public Distribution system noticed *inter alia* that the off-take of foodgrains under the BPL category in these districts was unsatisfactory. The State Government has been advised to look into this on priority and take requisite steps to increase the off-take in the KBK districts.

Distress Sale of paddy in Orissa

447. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the distress sale of paddy by poor farmers of Orissa;

(b) whether to control distress sale by farmers, the Centre has implemented "Rural Warehouses Schemes" (RWS);

(c) if so, the details of this project and how far this has helped the beleaguered farmers;

(d) the details of "Farmers Expansion Service Scheme" (FESS) project and how far this has helped the farmers of the State;

(e) whether the Centre has provided some compensation to those farmers who were compelled to distress sale of paddy;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No report of distress sale of paddy, conforming to Fair Average Quality (FAQ) specifications, have been received by this Department from Orissa during the current Kharif Marketing Season 2002-03.

(b) and (c) Grameen Bhandaran Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme of Capital Investment Subsidy for construction/renovation/expansion of